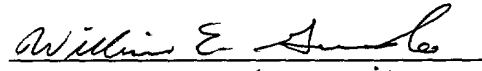


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William Garrido

DT-3841

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

APPLICANT : Roland Lippoldt et al.  
SERIAL NO. : Not Yet Known  
FILED : Concurrently  
FOR : A LOCKING DEVICE FOR A CLOSURE WITH A HOUSING  
EXAMINER : — GROUP: —

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Box: **Patent Application**

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application before Action as follows:

**In the Claims:**

Replace Claims 4-15 and 17-19 with the amended Claims 4-15 and 17-19 as follows:

4. (Amended). The locking device according to Claim 1, wherein the swiveling lever, on a marginal area extending around the axis of rotation in a circle arc shape, has a series of teeth (10) which interacts with a series of teeth (20) of the drive (19) in order to pivot the swiveling lever (8) about the axis of rotation (7).

5. (Amended). The locking device according to Claim 1, wherein the guide element is a guide pin (9).

6. (Amended). The locking device according to Claim 1, wherein the guide element is a guide pin (9) is defined by a prolongation of the axis of rotation (7) for supporting the swiveling lever (8).

7. (Amended). The locking device according to Claim 1, wherein the drive (19) is by an electric motor.

8. (Amended). The locking device according to Claim 1, wherein a circuit exists which enhances the self-locking action by short circuiting the electric motor drive (19) in the locking position.

9. (Amended). The locking device according to Claim 1, wherein the catch lever (12) has a widened base (13) in which the pivot axis (11) is supported and which, between the pivot axis and an adjoining neck with the hooked end (15), includes the cam segment (14).

10. (Amended). The locking device according to Claim 1, wherein the catch lever (12) has a fixing point (16) for the spring element (17) on the neck between the cam segment 914) and the hooked end (15).

11. (Amended). The locking device according to Claim 1, wherein the spring element (17) is held on the housing (1) at the other end.

12. (Amended). The locking device according to Claim 1, wherein the catch hook (12) is adapted to be moved through a slot-shaped aperture (5) in the upper side of the housing (1) which enables the catch hook 912) to be displaced perpendicular to the upper side of the housing (1) and parallel thereto.

13. (Amended). The locking device according to Claim 1, wherein the catch hook (12), in the aperture position, does not substantially project beyond the upper side of the housing (19).

14. (Amended). The locking device according to Claim 1, wherein the closing edge (4) is formed in a region thereof which stands back with respect to the underside of the closure with a cavity existing thereabove.

15. (Amended). The locking device according to Claim 1, wherein the closure (2) is pivotally supported on the housing (1).

17. (Amended). The locking device according to Claim 1, wherein the

closure (2) is adapted to be sealingly pulled back by the catch hook (12) against a seal of the housing (1).

18. (Amended). The locking device according to Claim 1, wherein the pivot axis (11, in the closing position, has been moved beyond a straight line extending through the point of rest of the hooked end (15) on the closing edge (4) and through the guide element (9) to cause a self-locking action.

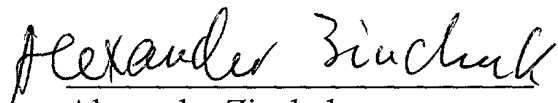
19. (Amended). The locking device according to Claim 1, which has several catch hooks (12).

#### **REMARKS**

By the present Preliminary Amendment, Claims 4-15 and 17 to 19 have been amended to eliminate multiple dependency therein. A hand-marked copy of the amended claims, as required by Rule 121, is enclosed.

An early action on merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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- 11 -

- (Amended).

- (Amended).

- (Amended).

- (Amended).

- (Amended).

- .../12

(Amended).

9. The locking device according to [any one of] claims [1] [to 8], wherein the catch lever (12) has a widened base (13) in which the pivot axis (11) is supported and which, between the pivot axis and an adjoining neck with the hooked end (15), includes the cam segment (14).

(Amended).

10. The locking device according to [any one of] claims [1] [to 9], wherein the catch lever (12) has a fixing point (16) for the spring element (17) on the neck between the cam segment (14) and the hooked end (15).

(Amended).

11. The locking device according to [any one of] claims [1] [to 10], wherein the spring element (17) is held on the housing (1) at the other end.

(Amended).

12. The locking device according to [any one of] claims [1] [to 11], wherein the catch hook (12) is adapted to be moved through a slot-shaped aperture (5) in the upper side of the housing (1) which enables the catch hook (12) to be displaced perpendicular to the upper side of the housing (1) and parallel thereto.

(Amended).

13. The locking device according to [any one of] claims [1] [to 12], wherein the catch hook (12), in the aperture position, does not substantially project beyond the upper side of the housing (19).

(Amended).

14. The locking device according to [any one of] claims [1] [to 3], wherein the closing edge (4) is formed in a region thereof which stands back with respect to the underside of the closure with a cavity existing thereabove.

(Amended).

15. The locking device according to any one of claims 1 to 14, wherein the closure (2) is pivotally supported on the housing (1).

16. The locking device according to claim 15 wherein the catch hook (12) impinges its hooked end (15) on the closing edge (4) in a pivoted position of the closure (2) which is merely a few angular degrees.

(Amended).

17. The locking device according to any one of claims 1 to 16, wherein the closure (2) is adapted to be sealingly pulled by the catch hook (12) against a seal of the housing (1).

(Amended).

18. The locking device according to any one of claims 1 to 17, wherein the pivot axis (11), in the closing position, has been moved beyond a straight line extending through the point of rest of the hooked end (15) on the closing edge (4) and through the guide element (9) to cause a self-locking action.

(Amended).

19. The locking device according to any one of claims 1 to 18, which has several catch hooks (12).